

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Before the first paragraph on page 1, amend the heading as follows:

~~Description~~ Field of the Invention

After the first paragraph on page 1, please insert the heading:

Background of the Invention

Please amend the second paragraph on page 1 as follows:

In the course of the ever increasing spread of allergies, consumers have the need to quickly and easily analyze what ~~the~~ consumer products contain. Products in this context refer to wares or services. However, this is not always readily possible since only a small part and only the necessary substances are often shown on the packaging. Even if the ingredients are noted on the packaging, the consumer ~~requires longer~~ must take the time to determine which ones are of concern to him.

Please amend the third paragraph on page 1 as follows:

~~The~~An object of the invention is to provide a method and a device which enable the consumer to determine ~~in best time~~rapidly whether the product meets his requirements.

Please delete the fourth paragraph on page 1.

Please amend the fifth paragraph beginning on page 1 as follows:

~~An important feature~~One aspect of the invention is a mobile terminal which can access exclusion and desired criteria by means of a user identification code, ~~whereby~~wherein the terminal has input capabilities, ~~in particular~~for example, a bar code reader, with reference to which the product properties can be determined by a central database. The two ~~information~~pieces of information can be compared either on the user device or on a central server. A further embodiment is provided for the Internet in which a simple interlinking and loading of information is used to obtain the desired result. ~~Details are described below.~~

Please amend the first paragraph on page 2 as follows:

In particular, the ~~present~~ method for checking properties of wares and services according to the present invention comprises access to a first database in which standardized properties of wares and services are stored. To enable access to these properties, the wares are provided with a unique product identification code which is preferably a bar

code. Other machine-readable ~~identifications~~ forms of identification are also feasible. If the invention is to be applied via the Internet, then a unique link (URL) is the preferred variant. Preferably, the structuring of the information is group oriented, so that rapid access to the information is ~~quickly~~ possible. The properties are input by the manufacturer or by the firm which distributes the products. Preferably, they are stored in a mark-up language, such as XML. To ensure that there are no allocation difficulties, a number of ingredients are provided from which a subset is selected. This approach requires that the database system be continuously adapted and updated by new classes and particulars.

Please amend the second paragraph on page 2 as follows:

The method has a reading capability on a further database in which exclusion and desired criteria for wares and services can be accessed by means of a unique user identification. These criteria correspond to the criteria for the wares and services, as already described above. Here, the user can individually indicate by links which criteria he prefers or which ones he would like to avoid. It is pointed out that this is only one possible embodiment. In other embodiments, fuzzy ~~terms~~ logic and synonym lists can be used from which the information can be derived. It is also feasible to use interference algorithms which solve the problem posed. The noted criteria are maintained for groups or specific products or services by the user or templates can be provided which the user specially adapts. Thus, it is feasible that templates are provided for house dust allergies or other allergies which the user only has to incorporate in his individual profile. This profile is accessed by a

unique user identification. The databases are accessed after the user has marked a product or a service, preferably interactively, as a result of which the product identification code is determined. This identification code is used in a further step in which the user provides ~~it~~this unique user identification code to determine exclusion and desired criteria as well as the properties of the wares and services on the basis of the product identification code. In a further step, in which the criteria are compared with the properties, the user is advised of the result.

Please amend the first paragraph on page 4 as follows:

A further ~~component~~aspect of the present invention is a mobile user device for checking properties of wares and services which is preferably embedded in an infrastructure as described in the preceding methods. A product identification code is read in or input via a reading or input unit. A user identification code or the exclusion and desired criteria are stored in a storage area. The user identification code and the product identification code are sent to a central server via network access means. Via the identifications, the server has access to the properties of wares and services which he then compares with the exclusion and inclusion criteria. The latter are associated with the user identification. The result of the comparison is sent back and the result of the comparison is shown in a display unit, in particular the degree of agreement and/or deviation.

Please amend the second paragraph on page 4 as follows:

In a modified embodiment, the comparison is carried out on the mobile terminal, ~~whereby either the~~ The exclusion and desired criteria are stored on the device or loaded via the network. On the other hand, the product properties are loaded by the network.

Please amend the fourth paragraph on page 4 as follows:

A further ~~component~~aspect of the present invention is a software module which implements the functionality on a conventional PDA. ~~Reference is made to the claim for details~~personal digital assistant (PDA). A further part of the invention is a data carrier which incorporates this software.

Please amend the last paragraph on page 4 as follows:

Another component of the invention is a server system which consists of several interlinked servers or a single server and which takes over the data management, in particular for the products and the user, and enables comparison operations.

Please insert the following heading before the first paragraph of page 5:

**Brief Description of the Drawings**

Please delete the fourth paragraph on page 5 beginning with the words "Numerous variations..."

Please insert the following heading after the fourth paragraph on page 5:

Detailed Description of the Invention

Please insert the following paragraph before the sixth paragraph on page 5:

The invention relates to a device and a method for checking properties of wares and services, referred to as a product checker. Standardized properties of wares and services are stored in a first database, wherein the wares and services are provided with a unique product identification code. Furthermore, there is a second database in which exclusion and desired criteria for wares and services for at least one user each are stored, access to the criteria being obtained by a unique user identification code. With aid of a device which determines the product identification, the product properties are preferably retrieved on-line and compared with the criteria of the user. The comparison can be done on-line on a central server or on a hand-reading device which the user carries with him. The user is advised optically or acoustically of the result.

Please amend the seventh paragraph on page 5 as follows:

~~The preferred two~~Preferred embodiments are described in Figures 1 and 2.

Please amend the last paragraph on page 5 as follows:

If, on the other hand, only the ~~identifications~~identification codes are present, then both are transmitted to a central server 16 which has access to the databases 14 and 15. The properties of wares and services and the exclusion and desired criteria can be determined on these databases with reference to the identification. After the two pieces of information have been determined, they are compared and the result is transmitted via the network 13 and the radio link to the terminal 11.

Please add the following paragraph after the last paragraph on page 6:

Numerous variations and further developments of the described embodiments can be realized within the scope of the invention.

Please delete the section entitled Reference Numbers on page 12.